

News and Information

Welcome - Welcome to University Presbyterian Church, an open and affirming "More Light" congregation in the PC(USA). Please sign the guest register at the back of the sanctuary if you are worshipping here for the first time. For more information about the life and work of this congregation, please contact Ron Gilmer.

Worship - The PC(USA) affirms that "the life of the Church is one, and that its worship, witness and service are inseparable" (*Book of Order*, preface to the Directory for Worship). In an effort to be inclusive, gender-neutral language is used in worship. When patriarchal language appears in hymns, members often substitute language that recognizes that God is neither male nor female. You are welcome to join them. Please be seated for the voluntaries at the beginning and end of the service. You may choose to use this time for prayer and meditation.

Announcements - All are welcomed to make announcements of interest to the congregation at the beginning of the service. The session asks that announcements be succinct. You are encouraged to submit announcements in writing by the end of business hours on the Wednesday before the Sunday that you would like the announcement to appear in print. Please send announcements to Carolyn MacVicar at upsa@bellsouth.net.

Congregational Meeting - A congregational meeting will take place immediately after worship this morning. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on proposed changes in the pastor's terms of call.

Thanks! - Thanks to all who helped to decorate the church this season, especially Mary Helen Martin, whose leadership in the area of hospitality is deeply appreciated. Thank you to Phil and Linda Grote for providing the beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary in loving memory of their parents.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day - Being a university church in a university town, we find ourselves scattered on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. In an effort to help us to worship together wherever we find ourselves when the church celebrates Christ's coming, liturgies for services of Evening Prayer for Christmas Eve and Morning Prayer for Christmas Day to be used in homes are being made available beginning with this afternoon's Service of Lessons and Carols.

Service of Lessons of Carols - UPC's annual Service of Lessons and Carols will take place today at 5 p.m. God's word will be proclaimed in Scripture and song, as we gather as a church family to celebrate the joy of the season. Following the service, we will gather in the fellowship hall. Please bring something "light" to share, as this meal will serve as dinner for some and appetizers for others.

Belonging to God - The "Belonging to God" series will begin following today's Service of Lessons and Carols. The next meetings in the series will take place Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Brock and Maria Perez-Fisher, and Sunday December 13, at 3:30 p.m. Please pray for those who have already signed up to participate: Joanna Biermann, Brock Fisher, Kendall French, Quincy Hall, Bill Henderson, Jessi Hitchins, Charlotte Lawson, Mary Meares, Maria-Victoria Perez-Fisher, James Shoemaker and Denise Yanaura. If you would like to know more about being Presbyterian and being Presbyterian at UPC, please contact Ron Gilmer about becoming part of this group.

Service of Ordination and Installation - A Service of Ordination and Installation will take place on Sunday, January 10, when the church remembers the Baptism of the Lord. Please be in prayer for Jamie Campbell, who will be ordained to the office of elder, Rachel Walker, who will be ordained to the office of deacon, Annabel Stephens and Lena Prewitt, who will return to active service on the session and Pat Dunbar, who will return to active service on the diaconate.

From the Conn Family - Thanks to Pat Dunbar for passing along a note from Mo Conn, son of former UPC pastor George Conn. Mo and his wife are now living in Williamsburg, Kentucky, where he teaches theater. He still loves motorcycles and rides from coast to coast every summer.

Attendance - November 22—42+ 2 nursery, November 29— 33 + 2 nursery

December Birthdays- December 5-Kai Miller, December 7-Cathy Andreen, December 8 -Linda Grote and Robert Robinson, December 9-Suzanne Alexander, December 16- Vicki Cox, December 21-Phil Grote, December 25-Jeanette Byrd, December 30-Sheri Shuler

Sunday Assignments

December 6

Communion Robert Spencer
Reader Garry Warren
Ushers Nicole Varnado and Rachel Walker
Welcomer Carla Hall
Greeter Beth Riggs

December 13

Communion Kay Ellis
Reader Ruthie Sherrell
Ushers The Millers
Welcomer Paige Miller
Greeter Mary Helen Martin

Lectionary Readings

December 6

Mal. 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Phil. 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 13

Zeph. 3:14-20
Isa. 12:2-6
:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Let us Pray....

Anna Gordon, Danielle Rabel, Ginny Hartman, Paige Miller, Quinn Miller, Jared Dearing, Torry Ryan, Aaron Chun, Michael Yampolsky, James Walker, Marie and Joe Stone, Robert Robinson, Lois Field, Wilma Warren, Jackie Reid, Carl Washington, James Darget, Carla Hall, Tiffany Washington, Cadarius Washington and Frederick Washington.

This Week at UPC

Sunday

9:30 Sunday School
10:15 Coffee Hour
11:00 Worship
12:00 Congregational Meeting
5:00 Lessons and Carols
7:00 Belonging to God

Tuesday

10:30 Staff Meeting
11:30 LBS
1:30-3:30 Food Pantry
8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday

5:30-7:00 Choir rehearsal

Thursday

6:30 Belonging to God

Monday

6:00-8:00 Westminster Fellowship

Friday

8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Elders

Steve Borrelli Robert Spencer
Nancy DuPree Garry Warren
Linda Grote Ann Webb
Julia Hartman John Whitehead
Gillie Presley
Lena Prewitt

Deacons

Robert DuPree
Carla Hall
Paige Miller
Torry Ryan

Mission Statement

We come together as the body of Christ, an expression of God's grace in this community. We are bound together in God's steadfast love and in our mutual love and support for one another. We honor a special commitment to provide nurture, support and encouragement to students. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live with compassion, to work for justice, to integrate faith and learning and to celebrate the gift of our life together. Since God's love excludes no one, our mission is to be inclusive. We trust that in God's time and by God's grace, God will destroy all barriers. We resolve to erect no barriers while working to overcome existing ones. Recognizing that we do not possess all the truth all the time, we affirm a variety of expressions

Ron Gilmer, Pastor Stated Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1 and Thursday 8-9
Carolyn MacVicar, Secretary, Office Hours: Tuesday 8-12, Wednesday 8-12 and Thursday 8-2

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*University
Presbyterian Church*

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Ron Gilmer, Pastor
William Henderson, Director of Music
Faythe Freese, Organist
Heekyung Lee, Intern

*“University Presbyterian Church is a More Light Congregation,
an Inclusive Church Committed to Social Justice“*

December 6, 2009– 11:00 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Advent

THE GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY *Partita on Savior of the Nations Come* Kenneth Koschke

MEDITATION Zoroastrian Scriptures
*In this place may obedience triumph over disobedience,
Peace over discord, generosity over grudges and pettiness,
Reverence over contempt,
The true spoken word over the lie,
Truth over falsehood.*

OPENING SENTENCES Isaiah 40:3
A voice cries:
In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

LIGHTING OF THE HOPE AND PEACE CANDLES Belonging to God
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise: I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and this Branch shall execute justice and righteousness.

In this promise, there is hope.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

In this promise, there is peace.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

In accordance with God's promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth where righteousness is at home.

We light this candle as we await the coming of the Messiah.

We light this candle, because we hope.

We light this candle praying that swords will be beaten and that wars will cease.

We light this candle as we pray for peace.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

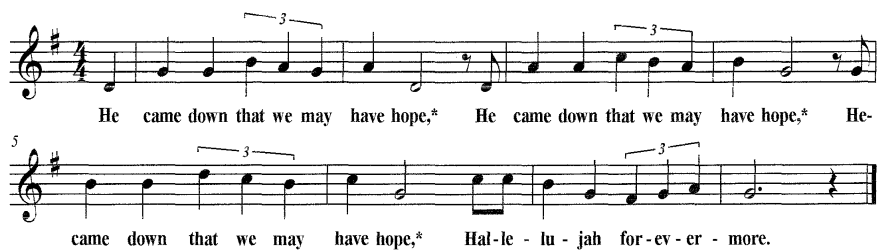
Come, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER *Forms of Prayer for Jewish Worship*
Lord, we thank you for your gift of hope, our strength in times of trouble. Beyond the injustice of our time, its cruelty and its wars, we look forward to a world at peace when men and women deal kindly with each other, and no one is afraid. Every bad deed delays its coming, every good one brings it nearer. May our lives be your witness, so that future generations bless us. May the day come, as the prophet taught, when "the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings". Help us to pray for it, to wait for it, to work for it and to be worthy of it. Blessed are you Lord, the hope of Israel.

***HYMN PH #9** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

CONFESSION OF SIN
God of our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

He Came Down John Bell



*peace, joy, love, life

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Garry Warren

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4 (*OT p. 889*)
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Luke 1:68-79
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for God has looked favorably on Israel and redeemed them.

The Lord has raised up a mighty savior in the house of God's servant David, as the Lord spoke through the mouth of holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus the Lord has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered God's holy covenant,

The oath that the Lord swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us, that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare the Lord's ways, to give knowledge of salvation to God's people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercies of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING Luke 3:1-6 (*NT p. 60*)
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God* G.F. Handel

SERMON AIDS, Afghanistan and the Search for Peace Ron Gilmer

***HYMN SNC #101** *God of Justice Ever Flowing* HOLY MANNA

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from A Brief Statement of Faith
In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us in the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Lord, in your mercy...
Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*All creatures, your Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness.
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Praise, praise Creator, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise....

SANCTUS Franz Schubert



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION Franz Schubert



LORD'S PRAYER
Please begin, "Our Mother and Father God, who art in heaven..."

AMEN Franz Schubert



BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
Please gather at the Lord's Table. When giving the bread, it is appropriate to say, "The body of Christ, the bread of heaven." When giving the cup, it is appropriate to say, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING
***HYMN PH #13** *Prepare the Way* BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN

VOLUNTARY *Savior of the Nations Come* J.S. Bach

*Please be seated during the closing voluntary as we give thanks to God for the gift of music.
The Worship Committee asks that you show your appreciation for the musicians
by some way other than clapping.*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**
Go into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!* VENI EMMANUEL